

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Riekki (U.S. Pat. No. 5,846,047) in view of Schatzler (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0076312); Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Riekki in view of Schatzler as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Monroig (U.S. Pat. No. 6,413,033); Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Riekki in view of Schatzler as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Reimer (U.S. Pat. No. 5,346,355); and Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Riekki in view of Schatzler and Reimer.

In this Amendment accompanying an RCE, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9; thus, Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11-12 are pending, of which Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-4 are patentable over Riekki in view of Schatzler. For instance, Claim 1 as amended recites a moveable stowage assembly for a firetruck, comprising a longitudinal member disposed on a top surface of the firetruck configured for moving a stowed ladder; attachment means for connecting the stowed ladder to the longitudinal member, the attachment means being adapted to travel along the longitudinal member; first powered means defining a closed loop for moving the attachment means between a stowed position and an access position; a base member secured pivotally to the top surface of the firetruck, the longitudinal member being moveable over the base member by second powered means for moving the longitudinal member between a stowed position and an access position; means for releasably securing the longitudinal member in the stowed position; first stop means to hold the longitudinal member in an access position on the base member; third powered means for pivotally moving the base member between stowed position and an access position; and second

stop means for holding the base member in the access position. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination does not include each and every element of Claim 1.

Riekki is directed in general to a motorcycle loading apparatus 10 with a roll-up winch 60 for towing a motorcycle 22 onto a bed 12 of a truck 14. Specifically, a cable 62 is hooked to the motorcycle 22 and rolled up by the winch 60. The cited reference at least does not teach a closed loop as admitted by the Office Action. Further, Riekki does not disclose or suggest a base member secured pivotally to the top of the firetruck, a longitudinal member being moveable over the base member by second powered means for moving the longitudinal member between a stowed position and an access position for accessing a ladder.

Schatzler et al. fails to cure the numerous deficiencies of Riekki. Schatzler et al. is directed in general to a transport device 1 having a transport belt 5 installed in a trunk space 2 of a vehicle and a transport belt 5' located on a tailgate 4 of the vehicle. Schatzler et al. does not teach powered means defining a closed loop configured for use on top of a firetruck, nor a longitudinal member being moveable over a base member by second powered means for moving the longitudinal member between a stowed position and an access position for accessing a ladder.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the skilled artisan would not have found motivation in the cited combination of references to modify the motorcycle loading apparatus of Riekki with the trunk space device of Schatzler et al. to arrive at the invention of Claim 1. When presented with the cited combination, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art could only have rectified the deficiencies of Riekki using impermissible hindsight afforded by the Applicants' disclosure. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1

patentably defines over the cited combination, and Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection to Claim 1 and allowance of Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-6.

Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 8 is patentable over Riekki and Schatzler et al. As amended Claim 8 recites a moveable stowage assembly for stowing and accessing emergency equipment on top of an emergency vehicle, the moveable stowage assembly comprising a movable member configured for moveably holding the emergency equipment; a base member pivotally attached to a the top of the emergency vehicle, the movable member further configured to traverse the base member to and from a stowed position; an attachment moveably disposed between the movable member and the emergency equipment, the attachment configured to traverse the movable member with the emergency equipment between the stowed position and an access position; an actuator attached between the top of the emergency vehicle and the base member, the actuator configured for pivoting the base member in a downward direction away from the top to the access position to access the emergency equipment; and a powered closed loop configured to drive the attachment.. Applicant respectfully submits that the cited combination of references fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claim 8.

As the Office Action concedes, Riekki does not teach a closed loop. The cited reference also does not disclose a powered closed loop configured for use on a top of an emergency vehicle. Additionally, Riekki does not teach a base member pivotable in a downward direction away from the top to an access position to access emergency equipment.

Applicant respectfully submits that Schatzler et al. fails to cure the numerous deficiencies of Riekki. As discussed above, Schatzler et al. is directed in general to a transport device 1 having a transport belt 5 installed in a trunk space 2 of a vehicle and a transport belt 5' located on a tailgate 4 of the vehicle. Schatzler et al. does not teach a powered closed loop configured for

use on top of an emergency vehicle, nor a base member pivotable in a downward direction away from the top.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the skilled artisan would not have found motivation in the cited combination of references to modify the motorcycle loading apparatus of Riecki with the trunk space device of Schatzler et al. to arrive at the invention of Claim 8. When presented with the cited combination, Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art could only have rectified the deficiencies of Riecki using impermissible hindsight afforded by the Applicants' disclosure. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 8 patentably defines over the cited combination, and Applicant respectfully requests removal of the rejection to Claim 8 and allowance of Claim 8 and its dependent Claims 9 and 11-12.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action and places the Application in complete condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions upon consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

10/28/05  
Date



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